

## EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

## Patent Abstracts of Japan

PUBLICATION NUMBER : 2001187025  
PUBLICATION DATE : 10-07-01

APPLICATION DATE : 02-10-00  
APPLICATION NUMBER : 2000302155

APPLICANT : KAO CORP;

INVENTOR : SHIOYA YASUSHI;

INT.CL. : A61B 5/00

TITLE : METHOD FOR EVALUATION OF DEGREE OF HEALTH OF SKIN

ABSTRACT : PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To evaluate degree of health of the skin by providing a method and an apparatus for evaluating water permeability of the corneal layer of the skin and/or water supplying power of a structure consisting of living cells below the corneal layer.

SOLUTION: The apparatus for evaluating water permeability of the corneal layer of the skin and/or water supplying power of the structure consisting of living cells below the corneal layer is provided with a means for jetting and feeding a carrier gas with a definite characteristics on the skin face to be measured from a gas inlet path, a means for measuring humidity of the carrier gas passing through the skin face to be measured and exhausted from a gas exhausting path by means of a humidity sensor, and a means for calculating an overall coefficient of mass transfer of water in the corneal layer and/or a partial pressure of steam in the structure consisting of the living cells below the corneal layer by using a specified analytical method.

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